nationalised banks, as per d' ls below :—

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Date from which lying vacant
1.	Canara Bank	1.9.1996
2.	UCO Bank	23.10.1996

Necessary steps for filling up these vacancies have been initiated.

Insurance Cover Against Natural Calamities

1165. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any insurance cover is provided to the poor people under which their houses that are burnt or washed away by natural calamities like fire, flood, cyclone, earthquake etc. are reconstructed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to formulate such a scheme for the benefit of the poor people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). 'Hut Insurance Scheme' provides immediate relief to the poor families in rural areas, whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 4,800/-, when their huts and belongings get destroyed by fire. A master policy covering all eligible population in the country is issued by the general insurance industry for which the entire premium is borne by the Central Government. This Scheme is not intended to cover perils like floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc. for which a separate 'Calamity Relief Fund Scheme' already exists in the States. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to cover these risks under the 'Hut Insurance Scheme'.

[Translation]

Performance of Banks in Haryana

1166. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of each of the public sector banks in the matter of their deposits, loan distribution etc. during the last three years in Haryana; and

(b) the target fixed and loans granted in Agricultural and Industrial sectors and also under self employment scheme by each of the banks during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Visit of US Trade Representatives

1167. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Trade representatives, during their recent visit to New Delhi, made some suggestions regarding reduction or elimination of tariff duties on telecommunications, hardware and software;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The US has made a proposal for an agreement under the World Trade Organisation to reduce/eliminate tariff on information technology related goods by the year 2000. The Government is examining the merits of the proposal.

Child Marriage

1168. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court has recently recommended to the Union Government that penalty prescribed for underage marriages be drastically increased to punish the guilty; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No such recommendation has so far been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of Duty on Indian Floriculture by EU

1169. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has imposed a duty of 15 to 20 percent on Indian floriculture whereas most other developing countries are exempted from this levy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). There is no separate country specific duty regime imposed by the European Union (EU) as the duties are

required to be levied on "Most Favoured Nation" (MFN) basis. However, in derogation of MFN duties, EU grants concessional treatment under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to various developing countries. India is also one of the beneficiaries for GSP on floriculture which is figuring in the list of sensitive/very sensitive items and attracts a duty of 70%/85% of the applied MFN rate on exports of floriculture to EU. Under the EU GSP Scheme, exports from least developed countries (LDCs) and some other countries facing special problems enjoy better concessions than India.

(c) and (d). India has requested European Union for better GSP treatment.

Implementation of 10th Finance Commission Report

1170. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to implement the 10th Finance Commission's recommendation regarding the pooling of all Central Taxes for sharing with the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame fixed for it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Planning Commission is not required to make any recommendation regarding the implementation of the Finance Commission's recommendations.

The recommendation of the 10th Finance Commission regarding pooling of the Central taxes for sharing with the States, is under examination by the Government of India and it also entails consultation with States.

National Judicial Academy

1171. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) when the National Judicial Academy was constituted and the details of its members and terms of reference;

(b) the details of works undertaken by the Academy since its constitution;

(c) whether a study team has been constituted to study the arrears of cases pending before the High Courts, Subordinate Courts and Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when this team is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The National Judicial Academy was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi on 17th August, 1993 and the Academy has come into existence with effect from that date. The Governing Council of the Academy has the following members :-

(i) Chief Justice of India	-	Chairman
(ii) Two Member Judges of Supreme Court	-	Member
(iii) Secretary (Justice)	-	Member
(iv) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs	-	Member
(v) Secretary, Department of Expenditure	-	Member
(vi) Registrar General, Supreme Court of India	-	Member/ Convenor

The National Judicial Academy is required inter alia to provide training to the Judicial Officers of the States/UTs, study the Court Management and the Administration of Justice in the States/UTs and suggest improvement to the said system, and collaborate in promoting study of Court management with other institutions both within the country and abroad.

(b) The Academy is functioning from Delhi and takes up such programmes which can be handled from Delhi without the need for an infrastructural facility of its own. A training programme on "Court Administration" for Registry personnel has been conducted with experts from Californian Institute and National Informatics Centre in October, 1996 at Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, Hyderabad. An orientation course on 'Gender and Law' for State Judicial Officers was conducted in March-April, 1996 at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. It is proposed to arrange a dialogue on 'Regional Perspective on Gender Equality' at India International Centre, New Delhi in January, 1997.

(c) to (e). To improve Court Management with a view to speeding up disposal of pending cases at all levels, the Academy has set up a Study Team headed by its Director General. The Study Team will prepare a package of proposals for the improved functioning of Courts with particular emphasis on introduction and utilisation of modern court management techniques.

The Report on Court related ADR system would be finalised soon for implementation.

Criminalisation of Politics

1172. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any